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PROGRESS OF POLISH PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

PRODUCES ABOUT 700 DRUGS -- Warsaw, Trybuna Ludu, 9 Dec 52

During the last few years, the Polish pharmaceutical industry has expanded rapidly. Over 700 different drugs are now being produced. Production has been started on penicillin, ACTH, chloromycetin, PAS, "hydrazide," synthetic hormones, sulfamides, amino acids, and others.

In recent years, the domestic raw material sources have been expanded, and substitutes for imported raw materials are now being produced in Poland. At present, the synthesis of basic raw materials and intermediates for the production of drugs constitutes about 70 percent of the total production of the pharmaceutical industry.

Planned imports of drugs in 1953 will be only one fifth of the imports in 1951.

For the first time in Poland's history, the export of surplus drugs has been started.

At a recent national meeting of the pharmaceutical industry in Jelenia Gora, achievements of the industry and its future tasks were outlined.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY EXPANDS -- Warsaw, Sluzba Zdrowia, 20 Sep 52

Before the war, only 10 percent of Poland's drug requirements were produced domestically, and the remaining 90 percent were imported. Patent medicines of little value constituted the 10-percent domestic production. More important synthetic products were not manufactured.

People's Poland was faced with very important problems in organizing a large pharmaceutical industry. The reconstruction of the ten largest plants of the pharmaceutical industry was carried out during the Three-Year Plan.

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The Six-Year Plan will bring a further increase in the pharmaceutical industry by the solution of the problem of intermediates in the chemical industry. Then, the requirements of health institutions will be fully covered.

After the war, production was begun on the most important drugs, such as acetylenic acid [acetylene dicarboxylic acid?], ethyl chloride, phenylcinchononic acid [cinchophen], salicylic acid, antabus, bromural, cardiamide, dial, evipan sodium, phenacetin, formalin, glucose, hexamethylenetetramine, histidine, insulin, codeine, novalgin, pabialgin, phanodorn, "polocain," prominal, bismuth salts, mercury salts, sulfathiazol, sulfaguanidine, synthopholine, veronal, vitamin K, and glutamic acid.

The greatest of the achievements is the activation and full mastery of the production of crystalline penicillin and, in the near future, the production of procaine and chloromycetin according to Poland's own method. The constantly expanding assortment will soon provide the country with vitamins B, C, and E, adalin, antistine, benadryl, synthetic caffeine, heparin, folic acid, pantothenic acid, progesterone, and synthetic theobromine.

The following table shows the consumption of some drugs during 1937 and 1951 (in kilograms):

<u>Drug</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1951</u>
Sodium diborate	1,676	4,000
Synthetic novocain	348	900
Phenacetin	4,023	9,000
Pyramidon	12,637	21,000
Antipyrine	2,819	6,000
Antipyrine derivatives	1,790	5,000
Caffeine	10,394	13,000
Barbiturates	2,633	3,000

In sharp contrast to the prewar private pharmaceutical factories, with their primitive equipment and methods, are the present modern Warsaw Pharmaceutical Plants (Warszawskie Zakłady Farmaceutyczne) in Tarchomin, and other pharmaceutical plants in Jelenia Gora, Krakow, Poznan, and many other parts of Poland. In these plants, valuable and new drugs are produced in bright and spacious laboratories using new and efficient apparatus.

Polish science cooperates with the pharmaceutical industry; plants have accurate formulas and responsible supervision over the quality of drugs.

The State Institute for Vegetable Raw Materials (Panstwowy Instytut Surowcow Roslinnych) in Poznan, the Institute of Medicinals (Instytut Lekow) in Warsaw, the Pharmaceutical Institute (Instytut Farmaceutyczny) in Warsaw are also concerned with the problem of drugs. The completion of the work of the Editorial Committee for the Third Polish Pharmacopoeia (Komitet Redakcyjny III Farmakopei Polskiej) will also help expand the production possibilities. Cooperation of science with the industry means new drug synthesis and dependable quality. The testing laboratories of the pharmaceutical plants are today bringing together famous scientists, chemists, and pharmacutists so that the Polish pharmaceutical industry may expand, progress, and be freed from imports.

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Raw materials and intermediates for the expansion of the pharmaceutical industry are assured by the Six-Year Plan, which places the problem of the expansion of the chemical industry in second place after heavy industry.

POLAND PRODUCES SYNTHETIC CHLOROMYCETIN -- London, Dziennik Polski, 20 Oct 52

Dr Janusz Supniewski, professor at the Jagiellonian University, has discovered a simpler and cheaper method of producing chloromycetin through chemical synthesis. Chloromycetin is supposed to be an ideal drug for typhoid fever, and the first effective drug for typhus. Up to now, there was no anti-typhus drug, for the world-known Polish typhus vaccine of Professor Doctor Weigl only prevents the possibility of contracting this disease. The Polish press maintains that in case of a serious typhus epidemic, one with a mortality rate of 28 percent, the use of chloromycetin would eliminate the death of large numbers. In actual cases, patients have improved within 8 hours after the first dosage of chloromycetin.

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